



# DONATE, REUSE & REPAIR

WE CAN DIVERT TONS OF USABLE AND REPAIRABLE ITEMS  
FROM THE NYC WASTE STREAM

## How to Donate, Reuse, Repair and Share in NYC And Why We Need To Do Much More

Before discarding or recycling, think reuse and repair! As New Yorkers, we all see reusable or repairable items placed on the curb as garbage - items that are clearly not garbage but are discarded for a variety of reasons. There is a huge financial and environmental cost to NYC taxpayers of trucking and disposing of these to landfills and incinerators, while countless charities and individuals right here in NYC would be happy to rehome them and provide a longer life.

According to the Department of Sanitation's (DSNY) Waste Characterization Study (page 11), more than 77% of our discards could be recycled or reused.



USABLE DISCARDED FURNITURE

### MANY OPTIONS FOR REUSE, DONATE, SWAP, SELL, FIND OR RENT IN NYC

MSWAB has created a comprehensive **database of organizations** that accept donations, as well as other ways to give away, swap, rent, sell or repair. We also encourage readers to let us know of other options: click [HERE](#).

#### Below are some highlights:

- Large donation organizations and neighborhood thrift stores like [Goodwill](#), [Housing Works](#), [Salvation Army](#), [Big Reuse](#), [Cauz for Pawz](#), and many more. Some will pick up or you can ship for free!



**HELL'S KITCHEN FREE STORE - 2021**  
401 WEST 45TH STREET



SHARING LIBRARY IN BUILDING BASEMENT

- Online marketplaces where you can sell or give away items (and find free stuff!): [Freecycle](#), [Craigslist](#), [Nextdoor](#), [Facebook Marketplace](#), local Buy-Nothing groups or DSNY's [donateNYC](#).
- Community-run efforts such as Free Stores, [Broadway Green](#), swaps, repair/mending events and more.
- Apps for “street finds” such as [StoopingNYC](#) or [CurbAlertNYC](#) - online photo alerts of usable items placed on the sidewalk.

- Sell or Buy secondhand - [ThredUp](#), [Mercari](#), [The RealReal](#), [Ebay](#), [OfferUp](#), [Kidizen](#), [AptDeco](#).
- Niches - denim, sneakers, books, maternity, bras, etc. Try [Zappos for Good](#), [Got Sneakers](#).
- RENT instead of BUY! Do you really need to buy a dress for one event; buy kids' furniture or furnish a temp rental? Try [Hubbub](#), [Feather](#), [Nuuly](#), [Gwynnie Bee](#), [Le Tote](#), [RentTheRunway](#).
- Set up a sharing library in your building for books, toys and small housewares, furniture (if space allows. See example above. Even small spaces can work!)
- Enroll your building in DSNY's [RefashionNYC](#) (clothing) or [ECycleNYC](#) (electronics) & get free bins.
- Donate to shelters/soup kitchens or animal shelters: toiletries, bedding, towels, luggage, etc.

## HOW TO REPAIR & EXTEND THE USEFUL LIFE OF THINGS

- There are repair resources available but are sometimes hard to find. Websites like [NextDoor](#) are great places to ask for a recommended place/person to repair.
- [Fixup.nyc](#) includes a list of repair resources and asks people to add their own recommendations.
- [iFixit](#) has a wide array of repair guides.
- [Fixers' Collective](#) holds repair events + teaches repair.
- [YouTube](#) offers endless repair videos.
- Mending events - Subscribe to newsletters like [Fabscrap](#), [NYC Fair Trade Coalition](#).
- Learn about/support “Right to Repair,” a movement fighting manufacturers' requirements that only *their* facilities can repair (notably electronics, appliances, vehicles) (<https://www.repair.org/aboutus>). <https://states.repair.org/states/newyork/>
- Patronize shoe repair shops, tailors, luggage repair.



FIXERS' COLLECTIVE EVENT

## NOTES

**Organizations named here and in the database do not represent endorsements by MSWAB, and MSWAB has no business or affiliation with organizations listed.**

*This fact sheet is a publication of the [Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board](#) (MSWAB), a volunteer citizens' advisory board dedicated to helping NYC achieve its zero waste goals. Get involved. [Join our FREE monthly meetings!](#) Sign up for our mailing list [here](#). Questions? Email us [here](#).*